



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” ~ Anne Bradstreet

Thursday, March 20, 2008

The Division of Emergency Response Operations recently conducted an Emergency Squad Academy at the Correctional Training Institute. Each Emergency Squad from around the state participated in the five-day academy, and a graduation ceremony for the 63 participants was held at the conclusion of the program.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently held its 12th Annual Community Service Recognition Program. The program recognized over 220 volunteers, community service providers, and interns who gave their time and skills over the past year to help offenders with rehabilitation and re-entry. Volunteers have averaged over 588 hours of service monthly.

Offenders in the Rockville Correctional Facility’s Teddy Bear Club donated 59 crocheted bunnies, 16 blankets, and 14 other crocheted animals to the families of the Indiana National Guard’s 139th Field Army Unit. This is the second donation to the unit, and it was prompted by the unit’s recent deployment.

Dr. Mann Spitler gave a substance abuse presentation entitled “Manda’s Story” to the students at Camp Summit this week. The presentation chronicled Dr. Spitler’s daughter and her battle with a heroin addiction. Afterwards, the students each prepared an essay on what the presentation meant to them, and the essays were incorporated as part of the substance abuse program.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held a graduation ceremony for 23 graduates of its Inside Out Dads program. Family members and staff were present alongside the offenders as they shared their learned parenting skills and commitments to becoming better fathers after their release.

Rockville Correctional Facility recently held a blood drive where 29 employees visited the Indiana Blood Center mobile unit. The drive collected 25 units of blood.

The Indiana Women’s Prison Special Needs Workshop made and donated over 3,500 items to Teachers’ Treasures, Inc., a store that provides free materials to teachers from schools demonstrating a poverty index of 40% or higher. The offenders made journals, bookmarks, bookbags, and flash cards, while other items were received by the community through the effort of workshop staff.

Due to the high amounts of recent rainfall, Madison Correctional Facility offered assistance to the Mayor of Madison to help with flood prevention and clean-up efforts. Thirty-five offenders from Madison’s GRIP Unit filled over 500 sandbags for the city within a few hours.

Pendleton Correctional Facility’s PLUS program recently conducted a food sale where offenders were permitted to purchase Church’s Fried Chicken. \$996 was raised during the event, and proceeds were divided between the PLUS program and Sheperd Community Center of Anderson.